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Country - Turkey

Subject - Undemocratic Laws/Summary Translation of the Report of the
Commission on Undemocratic Laws

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Article 159 of the Penal Code, which fixes a one to six year prison sentence for any verbal or written declaration throwing doubt on the legitimate character of the Grand National Assembly or which offends the "moral personality" of the Government.

Article 161 of the Penal Code, which prescribes at least five years of prison for the dissemination of rumors which endanger the security of the country as well as "any action which may be detrimental to national interests". This article is applicable in time of both war and peace, and persons accused under it are tried in military courts.

The most glaring defect, according to the Commission, in the Turkish government today from the point of view of Democracy is the fact that there is no supreme court which has legal power to hold legislation null and void because of unconstitutionality.

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